

MARINES FACT FILE: *F/A-18 Hornet vs. Boeing 767*

F/A-18 Super Hornet Stats ▾



Manufacturer: McDonnell Douglas Aircraft Co.
Primary Function: Multi-role attack and fighter aircraft
Unit Cost: \$57 million
Crew: 1 pilot
Passengers: N/A
Powerplant: 2 F414-GE-400 Enhanced Performance Engines w/ 22,00 lbs thrust each
Length: 60.3 feet

Height: 16 feet
Max Gross Take Off Weight (loaded fuel and armament): 66,000 lbs
Wingspan: 44.9 feet
Maximum Speed: 1,370 mph (Mach 1.8 +)
Combat Range: 1,467 miles
Ceiling: 50,000 + feet
Payload: 17,750 lbs ordnance

Armaments

M-61A1 20 mm Vulcan Cannon, AIM-9 Sidewinder, AIM-7 Sparrow, AIM-120 AMRAAM, AGM-65E Maverick, AGM-88A HARM, AGM-84D Harpoon, AGM-84E SLAM, AGM-62 Walleye, MK82HD Snake eye, MK-76-106, GBU-22 Paveway laser-guided bomb, GBU-15 Guided Bomb Unit, CBU-84 Cluster Bomb Unit, Joint Stand-Off Weapon, Joint Direct Attack Munitions, Data Link Pod, BLU-107/B Durandal, Rockeye II, various general purpose bombs, mines and rockets.

Initial Training

Six weeks aviation training and indoctrination including meteorology, Federal Aviation Regulations, aerodynamics, flight physiology, engines, navigation, and land and water survival at NAS Pensacola.

Primary Flight School Training

Six to eight months in Initial Training Squadron with T-34 Turbo Mentor instruction followed by assignment of jet, prop or helicopter aircraft. Individual score, class ranking and Marine Corps needs determine slot.

Main Training for Jets

Six to eight months training at NAS Meridian, Miss., or NAS Kingsville, Texas, for T-45 Goshawk instruction, with limited weapons delivery and carrier training, followed by graduation and earning of Naval Aviator wings. Class ranking and Marine Corps needs determine platform – whether EA-6B, AV-8 or F/A-18.

Advanced Training for the Hornet

MCAS Miramar, Calif., or NAS Oceana, Va., or NAS Lemoore, Calif., for approximately one year of intensive F/A-18 Hornet training.

Pilot's Quote

"I have flown this plane in combat and around the world, and it is just a beautiful plane to be flying in not only because of Boeing but the Marines who work on them and keep them going," said Lt. Col. Robert J. Charette, commanding officer of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 323.

▾ Boeing 767 Stats



Manufacturer: Boeing Aircraft Company
Primary Function: Passenger transport
Unit Cost: \$156-182 million
Crew: 1 pilot, 1 co-pilot
Passengers: 568
Powerplant: 4 Rolls-Royce RB211-524H2-T engines with 59,500 lbs thrust each
Length: 231 feet, 10 inches
Height: 63 feet, 8 inches
Weight (loaded fuel and cargo): 875,000 lbs
Wingspan: 211 feet, 5 inches
Maximum Speed: 583 mph
Maximum Range: 8,430 miles
Ceiling: 41,000 feet
Payload: 249,122 lbs cargo

Armaments

Pistol-packing sky marshal (optional).

Initial Training

Eight to 10 months earning private, commercial, instrument rating and multi-engine rating licenses.

Intermediate (Primary Flight School) Training

N/A

Main Training

12-15 months ground school, with simulator training, earning certified flight instructor, certified flight instrument and multi-engine instructor certificate - 1,500 hours of instruction and at least 23 years old - to be hired by commuter airline. Airline Transport Pilot rating including multi-engine fixed wing commercial pilot's license, and varying flight-time/experience requirements of several thousands of hours and multiple years as a commercial pilot.

Advanced Training

Aircraft-specific training supplied by airline, 3 to 6 weeks of ground school, check rides with Federal Aviation Administration inspector, and recurrent training and simulator time throughout the year after becoming a 1st Officer (more training and time required to become pilot in command).

Pilot's Quote

"The standard definition of an airline pilot's job is 99.999 percent pure boredom, and 0.001 percent pure terror." - Commercial airline pilots' adage.

▾ Legendary Marine Recounts Life as a Sniper

By Lance Cpl. Christian R. Winter
 HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS, Washington

At the Marine Scout Sniper School at Camp Pendleton, Calif., a sign reads, "Kill one man, terrorize a thousand."

During the Vietnam War, the North Vietnamese Army placed bounties from \$8 to \$2,000 on the heads of Marine snipers. Gunnery Sgt. Carlos Hathcock, with 93 confirmed kills, actually held the record bounty of \$30,000 and killed every Vietnamese marksman who sought it. Hathcock, however, did not hold the confirmed kill record.

Sgt. Chuck Mawhinney is credited with 103 confirmed kills and an additional 216 unconfirmed kills. He served 16 straight months in Vietnam and was sent home only because a Navy chaplain declared him combat fatigued.

"I did what I was trained to do," said Mawhinney in a 2000 interview with the L.A. Times. "I was in country a long time in a very hot area. I didn't do anything special."

For more than 20 years, only a few Marines with whom he served knew of Mawhinney's "less-than-special" record. In 1987, however, Joseph Ward, a fellow sniper, exposed Mawhinney's marksmanship in his book, "Dear Mom: A Sniper's Vietnam."

At first, Mawhinney was outraged and embarrassed. After retiring from his Oregon Forest Service job, though, he began training other snipers and addressing international sniper symposiums. He recently served as "chief judge" at the Operational Tactics, Inc. World Sniper Championship.

In Vietnam, Mawhinney regularly killed the enemy from up to 800 yards away and occasionally beyond 1,000.

He never thought about the humanity of his targets, he said. "I never looked in their eyes, I never stopped to think about whether the guy had a wife or kids."

He always told other snipers what was told him after his first kill. "That wasn't a man you just killed; it was an enemy," he said. "This is your job. This is what war is all about. You screw up, you die."

Nevertheless, Mawhinney said his senses went into overtime after firing at a target. "Your vision widens out so you see everything, and you can smell things like you can't at other times," he added.

In addition, he said his rules of engagement were simple. "If they had a weapon, they were going down. Except for an NVA paymaster I hit at 900 yards, everyone I killed had a weapon."

DEAR MOM A SNIPER'S VIETNAM



In Vietnam's jungle war, only one group of men was feared more than death itself—the Marine Scout Snipers....

Joseph T. Ward

Near Marine Base An Hoa, outside Da Nang, Mawhinney shot 16 NVA soldiers with his M-14 while they crossed a stream, he said. He often carried an M-14 in addition to his Remington Model 700 bolt-action. No officers, however, were there to confirm the dead.

Mawhinney said he eventually became disillusioned with the Vietnam War.

He left the Corps in 1970 after serving briefly as a marksmanship instructor at Camp Pendleton. He returned home to Lakeview, Ore., where he worked with a road maintenance crew and later managed a motor pool.

"I felt I was finally home, not like when I would come home on leave from Vietnam and knew I had to go back to that hell," said Mawhinney. "I'm not a guy who looks back. I try to do everything 100 percent. If you're a sniper, that's the only way to do it, if you want to stay alive." **TVE**